

Rohnert Park in celebration of his twelve years serving on the Rohnert Park City Council.

Joseph Callinan was born in Rohnert Park, Sonoma County, California and is a lifelong resident of the city. In 2008, he was elected to city council and has served three terms. Callinan first became mayor in 2013, and served as vice mayor in 2019, before his current appointment. Apart from serving his community as a member of the city council and as mayor, Mr. Callinan also owns a successful construction company that operates throughout Sonoma, Napa and Marin counties.

As mayor, Callinan supported investments to update city infrastructure. This included repaving the roads and a testament to Callinan's commitment to public safety, the construction of a new fire station. He helped foster a greater sense of community by voting to approve a new downtown for Rohnert Park, to create a vibrant public gathering place, and two new parks, Maurice Fredericks Park and Five Creek Park.

Most notably, Mayor Callinan addressed the increased demand for more affordable housing during his years in public service. Multiple housing projects have begun construction during his time in office, with many of them aimed at low-income families and seniors. The most recent of these are the WillowGlen Neighborhood and The Redwoods at University District. In addition, Callinan advocated for the continuation of homebuilding in Rohnert Park during the COVID-19 pandemic to help alleviate the ongoing housing crisis as many projects were halted mid-build.

Madam Speaker, Joseph T. Callinan has lived in Rohnert Park for 60 years. His love and dedication for his community is evident by his tenure on the city council and as mayor. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

**HONORING THE LIVES OF ADORA
PREVOST RAGSDALE AND
GEORGE ROBINSON RAGSDALE**

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the lives of Adora Prevost Ragsdale and George Robinson Ragsdale.

Dody, as her family lovingly called her, was born in Waynesville, North Carolina on May 31, 1939. The eldest of John Aaron and Adora Holtzclaw Prevost, she attended Waynesville High School and Sweet Briar College. She was elected President of her college class, and was an alumna of the Chi Omega Sorority where she also served as President. She graduated in 1961 with a Bachelor of Arts in History.

Dody adored the Appalachian Mountains in her youth and loved them throughout her life.

Her husband, George Ragsdale, graduated with honors in 1954 from Georgetown Preparatory School and then entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he graduated in 1958. An active student leader, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, the Order of the Golden Fleece, The Order of the Grail and was Chairman of the Men's Honor Council. He was elected Presi-

dent of the Senior Class and Permanent President of the Class of 1958.

Madam Speaker, George then went on to graduate from UNC Law School in 1961. He spent a year in Washington, D.C., as Assistant Chief Counsel of the United States Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights for the Chairman at the time, Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. It was in Washington where he met his wife "Dody" Prevost.

And on October 20, 1962 Dody and George married on what was described as a "brilliant October morning."

The couple moved back to North Carolina where George entered private practice in Raleigh. And upon the election of Governor Dan Moore, George was named Legal Counsel to the Governor. And then, in 1968, Governor Moore appointed him to the Bench as a Special Judge of the Superior Court of North Carolina, then one of the youngest such Judges in the State's history.

Dody championed and pushed countless causes including a fine understanding of the Arts, serving as the Board President for the North Carolina Symphony, and being a founding member of the American Dance Festival. And in her tireless spirit, Dody held multiple positions in her community, including with the Rex Hospital Guild and serving as President of the Capital City Garden Club.

George went on to found his own firm, Ragsdale Liggett, with his good friend Frank Liggett in 1972. During his long legal career, George served on the Boards of Directors of a number of publicly traded companies.

Madam Speaker, George then went on to be elected to the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1979 and then served as Chairman between 1984 and 1985.

Inspired by their deep Christian faith and devotion to God, Dody and George Ragsdale were founding members of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Sadly, Dody Ragsdale passed away on June 19th earlier this year. And her loving husband George passed on August 12th. They will be missed by their friends, their family, and their community.

My deepest and warmest sympathies and condolences are with the entire Ragsdale Family in this difficult time.

**HONORING COUNCILMEMBER
CYNTHIA MATHEWS**

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cynthia Mathews, the retiring City Councilmember and former Mayor of the City of Santa Cruz, California, for her commitment to serving the people of the central coast of California.

It is my honor to recognize her as she finishes her final term serving the City of Santa Cruz as the longest serving member of the City Council. Her service of 24 years has benefited countless residents of the City of Santa Cruz and is an achievement that few elected officials experience.

Councilmember Mathew's mark can be seen in the City of Santa Cruz's protection of its his-

toric buildings and architectural importance, the recovery of the Downtown after the Loma Prieta earthquake, and the protection of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. She has been a leader on the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee and led efforts to pass revenue measures supporting Santa Cruz City Schools, the Santa Cruz Public Library system and City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation programs.

The community of Santa Cruz has been well served by her dedication to neighborhoods, economic development, housing, social equity and social services, and public safety. Public service is a demanding commitment, and she has served with grace, intelligence and determination. Her service will certainly inspire future leaders on the Central Coast.

As she begins her retirement, I have no doubt that Cynthia will continue to serve her community. We, on the Central Coast, are grateful for her contributions to our community and celebrate her successful career.

**HONORING THE U.S.-JAPAN ALLIANCE
AND CELEBRATING OUR
JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY**

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the alliance between the United States and Japan and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Japanese Americans across our country, especially in my home state of Hawaii.

Seventy-five years ago, the Second World War finally ended when Japanese and Allied representatives signed the Instrument of Surrender on the deck of the U.S.S. *Missouri*, the storied battleship that now rests in Pearl Harbor in my district. Three generations hence, Japan has become a crucial ally, economic power and trading partner to the United States and built a dynamic democratic society and vibrant popular culture. Our two countries and peoples stand united as anchors of peace, prosperity and the liberal international order in the Indo-Pacific region.

On November 18, 2020, the House unanimously passed H. Res. 349, reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, a resolution that I also proudly cosponsored. Amidst this COVID-19 pandemic, renewed great power competition and a world in flux, the alliance and friendship between the United States and Japan remains a pillar of stability. Whatever challenges lie ahead, I am confident that our two countries will stand together and overcome them.

The memory of World War II also evokes one of the most shameful periods of our history as a country: the mass internment of Japanese Americans. Through Executive Order 9066 and other orders, the federal government forcibly relocated and incarcerated about 120,000 Japanese Americans, the majority of whom were U.S. citizens, in concentration camps.

The year 2020 marks 40 years since the appointment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. That Commission's report, entitled *Personal Justice Denied*, affirmed what we already knew: that the mass internment of Japanese Americans was the product of racism and not driven by any actual national security risk. In 1988, Congress passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed into law, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which formally apologized and established restitution for the internment of Japanese Americans.

Yet from this dark period in our history emerged great acts of courage and patriotism that helped make our country a more perfect union. Just months after President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, thousands of Japanese Americans volunteered to join the war effort to join their comrades who had served earlier in the Hawaii National Guard, leading to formation of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, later combined. Nicknamed the "Purple Heart Battalion," the 100th/442nd became the single-most decorated unit of its size in U.S. military history. Thousands more Japanese Americans served in the all-Japanese American 552nd Field Artillery Battalion and Japanese American Unit of the Military Intelligence Service.

Last year, I had the honor of traveling to the town of Bruyères, France, liberated by the 100th/442nd in the fall of 1944 at terrible cost, to represent our Congress at the 75th anniversary of liberation. There, I was moved by the powerful memory of these Japanese American soldiers, which included my wife's uncle, PFC Sadao Hikida, their courage and ferocity in freeing this town from Nazi oppression and rescuing the "Lost Battalion" and the enduring friendships they built with the people of Bruyères.

In Bruyères, I also recounted the personal impact that two veterans of the 100th/442nd had on my own life and career. It was *Journey to Washington*, the memoir of Medal of Honor recipient and U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, that first inspired me to consider a career in elected office. After graduating from college, I worked three years for Congressman (and later Senator) Spark Matsunaga, another veteran of the 100th/442nd, who has served as a lifetime role model for me and so many others.

The courage and patriotism of Japanese Americans also extended to the home front. Japanese American citizens fought against the injustice of Executive Order 9066 and challenged it in court, leading to the infamous *Korematsu v. United States* decision. That decision was only recently reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the decades since, Japanese Americans have accomplished so much and contributed so greatly to our country through their service and achievements in government, the military, science and technology, arts and culture, business and more. I especially recognize the Japanese Americans of Hawaii who help make our home state the wonderfully rich and diverse place it is.

I am proud to join my colleagues in this House in recognizing the U.S.-Japan alliance and commit myself to continued support for the historic friendship and amity between our peoples. And I am equally proud to represent and support the descendants of all those who

came to this country from Japan in search of a better life, retaining the best of the rich cultural heritage of their ancestral country in generations of contribution and achievement since.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF
THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR
GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
HOUSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member RODNEY DAVIS and I wish to recognize today a special group of dedicated and outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, and congratulate those who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

These remarkable and steadfast employees are an amazing asset for the House of Representatives. The work they accomplish is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively. The employees we acknowledge today are commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs, and their constituents; and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is often performed behind the scenes, possess a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of this great institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to more efficient and productive House support operations. These devoted employees have accomplished many great and important things in a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, its staff, and the American public are better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed below have provided 100 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Anne Binsted, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Kenneth Burch, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Philip Hamner, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Cynthia Hibbs, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I want to once again congratulate, acknowledge, and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officer, the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication to the House set an example for their colleagues and raises the bar for the

employees who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

STEVE DOMINE: A CAREER OF
SERVICE TO STEARNS COUNTY

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Domine, President of Minnesota Community Banking at Stearns Bank National Association. After 43 years in banking and 33 years at Stearns Bank, Steve announced his retirement in July.

Steve describes his career as having served nearly every position at the bank, starting as a teller and eventually being promoted to managing several community bank locations.

In his tenure with Stearns Bank, Steve has helped small businesses across our state grow and prosper.

I thank Steve and wish him good luck on his next chapter.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER GINA
BELFORTE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rohnert Park City Councilmember Gina Belforte for more than a decade of service to our community. As we mark her retirement, it is important to recognize her contributions to the City of Rohnert Park and the greater North Bay.

Councilmember Belforte was first elected in 2008 and has served three terms with honor and integrity, including terms as mayor and vice mayor. Throughout her years in office, she has worked hard to stabilize the city budget while maintaining essential services, and has always strived to give a voice to the underrepresented. She has also been a regional leader as the Sonoma County appointee to the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District and as a member of the Sonoma Clean Power Board of Directors. Through her passion and commitment, Councilmember Belforte has ensured a stronger, brighter future for Rohnert Park and our greater community.

Aside from her noteworthy record as a public servant, Councilmember Belforte is a well-regarded business leader. In recognition of her success in the face of barriers that exist for woman-owned enterprises, she was awarded the Women's Initiative for Self-Employment Woman Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2010. Using her business acumen for charitable causes, she has also served with distinction as the President of both Sonoma County Adult and Youth Development and the Rotary Club of Rohnert Park—Cotati. Although she is retiring from public service, her impact on our community will continue.

Madam Speaker, Councilmember Gina Belforte is an exceptional public servant, a